

UNAPPROVED

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Costa convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Donald Costa, Brian Kelly, Jeff Mutter, Ryan Pearson, Dan Pedro, Earl Wood

Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Dr. Susan Carney, Asst. Superintendent, Alex Prignano, Business Manager, Dr. Lisa Colwell, Director of Special Services, Fred Schockaert, Dep. Director of Special Services.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Mr. Pearson and Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Student Government Report

The following were past events: 9/27 Back to School evening – first ever – parents were given the opportunity to see all of the teachers without waiting in long lines – student government directed parents and lead some from class to class. 10/5 – first blood drive of the year – 71 donors. 10/11-10/16 was Spirit Week – daily events followed by the Homecoming Game and presentation of the court on Friday 10/16.

10/25 – talent show was held in the auditorium as a Grad Nite fundraiser. Upcoming events include the Turkey Basket Drive from 11/1 – 11/22 – trying to compile 120 turkey baskets for the town of Cumberland. 11/16 – junior ring ceremony. Student government has also launched their school wide clothing drive – jackets, hats, gloves, scarves. Dr. Morelle also congratulated CHS for being chosen by Channel 10 for the Friday night football pick and CHS was very lucky because the night they came to film was the homecoming game!

Agenda Item #5: Chairperson's Report

There was no report at this time.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report on Teaching and Learning

There was no report at this time.

Agenda Item #7: Comments from the Public

Ms. Richard wanted to thank Mr. Costa, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Pearson for

all of their hard work and also wanted to wish them Good Luck!

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills - Mr. Kelly stated that the Finance Committee had met earlier in the evening and by a vote of 2-0 (Mr. Pearson was late for the meeting) it was voted to bring the one payment register to the full committee for payment. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the payment of \$316,390.86, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Pearson, approved

7-0.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on Year 2 Sodexo Contract Amendment – Mr. Kelly also stated that the Finance Committee also discussed the Sodexo Contract- it was approved on a 3-0 vote to bring to the full committee for approval. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve year two of the Sodexo contract amendment, 2nd by Mr. Pearson. Mr. Mutter then asked if Mr. Prignano could explain that it was year two of the contract and not an extension of the contract. Mr. Prignano stated that originally the contract was a three year contract with potentially two more years for a possible five year contract. Each year the following years terms need to be reviewed and looked at, setting terms for the next year contract – so that is all that was done here – there was no extension of the contract. The motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Kelly then noted that at the Finance meeting earlier Mr. Cardi, a representative from Smart Bus Live, presented information regarding interior and exterior cameras for school busses. The exterior

cameras videotape cars that pass the busses illegally when the stop sign is out on the bus. In Rhode Island the fine for passing the bus is \$300 for each violation and 12.5% of this amount can be retained by the municipality, 12.5% by the state and 75% by the vendor that installs the cameras. The equipment is installed and maintained by Smart Bus Live and there is no charge for it – no charge for the school district and no charge to Durham. Mr. Kelly said there would be no negative impact to the budget and in fact he thought that the town could possibly split the 12.5% with the school department and therefore have a positive impact on our budget. He went on to say that Providence is already using this system. This was only a presentation so no vote could be taken, but Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Beaulieu thought that this should be brought to the full committee. At this point Mr. Kelly thanked Mr. Pearson and Mrs. Beaulieu for their past two years on the Finance Committee with him.

Agenda Item #9: Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of Special Meeting 10/5/10, Public Hearing 10/14/10, Executive Session 10/14/10 and Regular Meeting 10/14/10, 2nd by Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

B. Approval of Minutes – Mr. Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of Executive Session 10/5/10 and Executive Session 10/14/10, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

A. Home School Instruction Requests 2010-2011 School Year – no requests at this time.

B. Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (9) Grievance: 1) Vote on ICSE Grievance #10-11-01 – Mr. Mutter made a motion to deny the grievance, 2nd by Mr. Wood, approved 7-0.

C. Discussion and/or Vote on FY 2011 Budget – no action taken.

D. Second Reading and Vote to Approve 1) Fixed Asset Policy – there was no second reading of this policy, but Mr. Prignano had three changes that he would like to see changed on the existing policy – they are as follows: Page 4 under the heading – Asset Transactions –Mr. Prignano would like to add the following - “The Business Manager shall designate a Fixed Assets Administrator (someone with the education background to manage the process of managing a fixed asset system as complex as the districts. This person will be responsible for recording new assets as well as their value, depreciating assets over the useful life of the asset and preparing the fixed asset modification form for all changes in the fixed asset records. These changes are described in detail below)”, but then after listening to this change, Mrs. Beaulieu asked if the following change wouldn’t be better – “The Business Manager may assign responsibility for the Fixed Assets Administrator to an existing position”. Mr. Prignano said that as long as the SC approved it, he would be fine with it and would update the policy accordingly. The second change is on page 17 under the heading – Acquisition Code – Code #9 Initial Inventory did read 6/30/06, Mr. Prignano would like to change it to the updated date which is 6/30/09. The third change is on

page 18 under the heading – Funding Sources – it references a Public Building Authority and Cumberland does not have a Public Building Authority, so he would like that deleted from the records. Mr. Kelly then made a motion to move the amendment, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0. Mr. Kelly then made a motion to approve the Fixed Asset Policy as amended, 2nd by Mr. Wood and Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item # 11: Personnel Recommendations

No personnel recommendations at this time.

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

Carol was concerned that when you call any of the schools after 3 p.m. no one answers the phones. She wondered why it could not be transferred to someone that was still in the building, like the janitor, principal, etc. Dr. Morelle said that this would be looked into – she too believes that someone should be picking up these calls in case of emergencies. Dr. Morelle said they will see what other districts are doing regarding this issue. The second concern that Carol had was the high school cafeteria – she said that students are very disrespectful and messy in the cafeteria and she wants someone to step up and make the students accountable for their actions.

Mr. Higgins and Ms. Giorgio came to the podium so that they could give citations – from the Mayor and Town Council – to Mr. Kelly, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Costa. The citations offered thanks and congratulations to the three members.

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Pearson thanked all of the members of the SC for all of the hard work and thanked Mr. Costa for 14 years of service on the committee.

Mr. Wood thanked everyone and wished all the best of luck.

Mr. Kelly thanked everyone and said that at present he will focus on his family, but that he may be back someday.

Mr. Pedro thanked everyone. He thought that the entire committee worked well together.

Mrs. Beaulieu thanked everyone and said that even though they were given one of the worst budgets, they did their best and got through it.

She said she learned a lot and also thanked the administration. Mrs. Beaulieu wished everyone health, luck and happiness.

Mr. Mutter thanked the committee and administration. He said he appreciated all the accommodations made to him. Mr. Mutter said that he has met a lot of nice people and has learned a lot along the way.

Mr. Costa said that he has enjoyed every minute of his 14 years on the SC. He said his heart and soul was always with the children. Mr. Costa thanked everyone and the administration and said it was a great experience and he will definitely miss it.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:

A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1)

1) CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigations – Exception (2)

1) CTA/ICSE

2) Potential Litigation

Mr. Costa asked Mr. Rotella if there was an Executive Session tonight and Mr. Rotella said no.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

Mr. Pearson made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Mutter, approved 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony